



# United States Tuna Foundation

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Country of Origin Labeling Program  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
US Department of Agriculture  
Stop 0249  
Room 2092-S  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-5705

RE: Docket Number LS-02-13  
Establishment of Guidelines for the Interim Voluntary  
Country of Origin Labeling of Beef, Lamb, Pork, Fish,  
Perishable Agricultural Commodities, and Peanuts Under  
the Authority of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946

Dear Program Manager:

The US Tuna Foundation (USTF), a non-profit trade association consisting of all segments of the US tuna industry, appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the above named Docket concerning Guidelines for Interim Voluntary Country of Origin Labeling. The members of the USTF include the domestic processors of tuna, Bumble Bee (ConAgra), Chicken of the Sea International, and StarKist (DelMonte Foods), as well as purse seine vessel owners that provide tuna to the processors.

We completely support your interpretation of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) to exempt, "All cooked and canned fish products, including such items as canned tuna", from the interim guidelines. Canned tuna should not be subject to these voluntary guidelines or to the subsequent mandatory labeling regulations.

Very truly yours,

/s/

Randi Parks Thomas